



Winter 2010

COUNTY CLIPS

A Newsletter for Employees of Contra Costa County

SPOTLIGHT ON

Contra Costa County Library

See page 3



Families celebrate summer with the Red Panda Acrobats at the San Pablo Library



Message from Supervisor Gioia



By John Gioia

As the new Chair of the Board of Supervisors, I'm looking forward to meeting the needs of county residents despite our financial challenges. I'm proud of the great team on our Board. We've been honest with the public about our challenges and made difficult decisions without letting personal issues get in the way.

The economic downturn and real estate decline have substantially decreased county revenues. After years of 8% to 10% growth in property tax revenues, we've experienced two years of property tax decline. This hasn't occurred since the Great Depression.

The unprecedented state deficit and cuts to counties add to this revenue decline. Plus, substantial stock market losses will result in the County needing to set aside more money to meet pension obligations.

That's the bad news. But there is hope. I draw inspiration from a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

We understand the pain that is caused by cutting vital county services. But we're not sitting back; we're confronting our challenges.

The Board voted to support a constitutional convention to overhaul our broken state fiscal system, recognizing the budget crisis won't improve without structural change. Last year, I participated in a statewide summit of 500 local elected officials working to develop principles for reform.

Our county employees understand the challenges we face and have shown they're partners with us in solving these tough problems. Our Board greatly appreciates the concessions made by employees. We look forward to continuing this partnership as we make finances and services sustainable.

Even with these difficulties, we're continuing the important work of county government, strengthening relationships with community organizations, and even embarking on new initiatives.

In my District, partnerships have created two new youth centers. The County's unique partnership with Doctors Medical Center is responsible for saving that hospital. The County recently received \$12 million in federal funds to rebuild the Richmond Health Center at Doctors Medical Center. These are proof that even in difficult times "infinite hope" brings positive results. This is the momentum I'll strive to continue as Chair.

I believe that the talent, creativity and diversity of the residents and employees of Contra Costa will get us through these times.



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Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180
or email us at cwamp@contracostatv.org.

SPOTLIGHT on the Contra Costa County Library



By providing all residents with a wealth of resources that inform and educate, free events designed to support and inspire, and 24/7 access to vital online information, the library strives to satisfy and exceed the informational needs of our communities. In the New Year, the Contra Costa County Library, like many, reflects on past accomplishments, is proud of current endeavors and looks forward to the challenges of the future as community needs evolve and new technologies emerge.

In 2006, with help from local residents, the library adopted a strategic plan identifying reading, life-long learning, collaboration, and brand identity as top priorities. We introduced a new customer service model that integrates visitor needs and expectations with current technology to provide faster and improved service.

During the 2008-09 fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library welcomed over 3.8 million visitors, an average of about 1,585 each hour. The library's website attracted about 1.7 million virtual visits and collections grew to include over 1.2 million books and 2,300 magazines and newspapers. As demand for interactive media such as books on CD, DVDs and electronic books increased, the library expanded these collections to include over 25,000 electronic book titles and 154,000 audiovisual items.

Below: Grand opening at the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center



Vi Grantham helping patrons check out books at the Orinda Library

With public Internet computers available at all community libraries, visitors logged onto one of the library's 383 public computers over 720,000 times throughout the year. At numerous libraries, one-on-one computer instruction with a trained computer expert helped people improve computer and Internet skills. Over 6,100 free workshops and events offered throughout the year at all 25 library locations attracted over 183,400 people.

Libraries throughout the county are truly community spaces. Visit any location, from the historic 1940's building housing the Martinez Library to the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center and you'll find a comfortable space to meet friends, visit with family or relax with something to read. With free wireless Internet access at all libraries, we've become a popular study space and "home" office.

Contra Costa County Library is a library when and where you need it. "Bringing people and ideas together" means finding novel ways to make information available for all community

Spotlight continued on page 4

Spotlight Continued

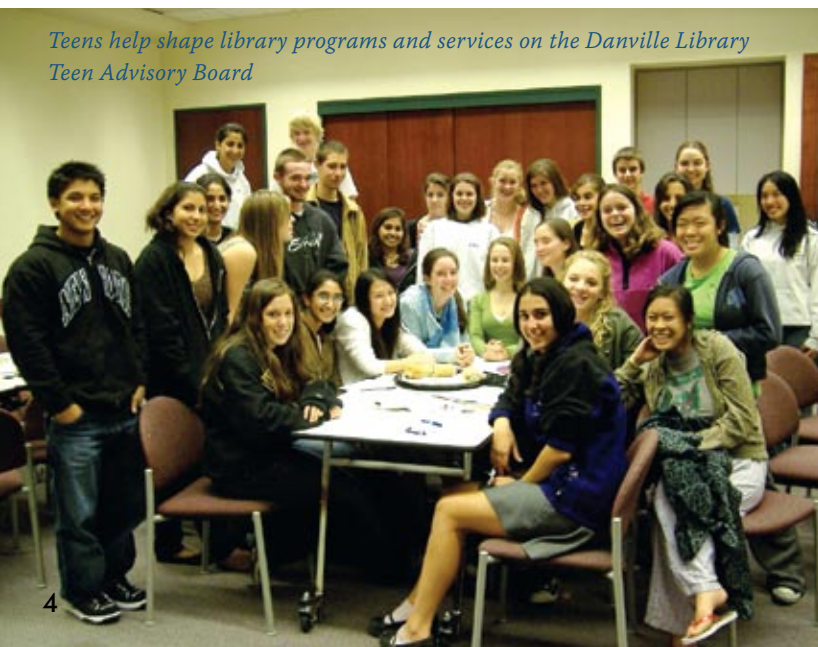


Stephen Ginocchio & Patty Chan welcome patrons to Library-a-Go-Go. Do you need a library card?

members; and this year, the Library installed its third Library-a-Go-Go automated book dispensing machine at the El Cerrito del Norte BART station to provide books for commuters and others unable to access a community library. The Library enhanced its online subscriptions with an extensive collection of books, music, and video for all formats, including mp3 players and iPods.

Community libraries partner with library friends groups and other local organizations, county departments, schools, authors and businesses to provide workshops on important issues - job searching, personal health, parenting, and running a small business, just to name a few. Project Second Chance teaches adults to read; and to underscore the importance of literacy as an essential lifelong skill, the library hosts several annual events to promote and encourage reading for all ages - the Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival, Summer Reading program and numerous One City/One Book programs throughout the county.

Teens help shape library programs and services on the Danville Library Teen Advisory Board



As our communities grow, our libraries grow along with them. Many of the cities have built new or remodeled library facilities. In the last 10 years, the city of Brentwood has grown by leaps and bounds...and so has their love for the library. Since moving to a new location in June 2009, the number of books, movies, and music checked out at the Brentwood Library increased 36%. The Lafayette Library & Learning Center opened with a community celebration in November 2009. In addition to a wealth of books and computers, the library is home to the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, a collaborative project of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation uniting a dozen Bay Area educational and cultural organizations, including the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and California Shakespeare Theater. Walnut Creek residents anxiously await their new library scheduled to open in June 2010. The Walnut Creek Library will be a LEED-certified model of sustainable design featuring a Business and Career Center, an expanded health and wellness collection, and an art gallery.

Like other county departments, declining revenues will limit our ability to progress at the pace we would like. However,



Jam Sessions at the Martinez Library with the Martinez Junior High School Guitar Club

our aggressive efforts to expand our funding sources to include foundations, corporate sponsors and other partners combined with our talented staff and volunteers will allow us to continue to find innovative ways to address the increasing demand for library services.

The New Year brings renewed hope for prosperity and a reinvigorated economy. The library moves into 2010 as an essential part of our community's infrastructure, ready to inform, educate and entertain with resources to help individuals, families, and small businesses save money, work and play smarter, achieve success, and live their lives well. We look forward to seeing you at one of our community libraries or visit us online at www.ccclib.org.

Veterans Services Available

Relying on independent studies by the Institute of Medicine, the U. S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Eric K. Shinseki has added ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease and B cell leukemia to the list of disabilities that are associated with the use of herbicides in Vietnam. As a result of the Secretary's decision the VA will presume a relationship between these disabilities and a veteran's service in Vietnam or on the inland waters of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Other disabilities on the list include the following:

Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy

AL Amyloidosis

Chloracne

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)

Hodgkin's Disease

Multiple Myeloma

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Prostate Cancer

Respiratory Cancers, and Soft Tissue Sarcoma
(other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma,
Kaposi's sarcoma or Mesothelioma)

Should you know anyone who served in Vietnam with any of the disabilities listed, you should encourage them to contact their County Veterans Service Office for additional information and assistance in filing a claim for disability compensation with the VA. This would include surviving spouses and children of veterans who served in Vietnam as the VA also administers benefit programs for survivors.

Election News

Filing periods for the June 8, 2010 Primary Election for Federal, State and County offices begin on January 4, 2010. That is when candidates can pick up petitions to gather optional signatures-in-lieu to help cover the cost of the filing fee. The actual mandatory nomination period begins February 16, 2010 and ends on March 12, 2010.

Federal offices up for this election include United States Senator and Congressional Representative. Statewide offices include Governor and Secretary of State. A complete list of offices and specific timeframes can be found at the Elections Division website, www.cocovote.us, under Candidate Services.

Contra Costa County offices up for this election include:

Superior Court Judges

Member of the Board of Supervisors,
Districts 1 and 4

Assessor

Auditor-Controller

Clerk-Recorder

District Attorney-Public Administrator

Sheriff-Coroner

Treasurer-Tax Collector

Superintendent of Schools

All of Contra Costa County's partisan Central Committee and County Council offices will also be open for filings.

The Elections Division has arranged for a Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) workshop for candidates and their treasurers involved in the June 8, 2010 Primary Election. This workshop will provide direction on how to correctly prepare campaign finance reports and information on the Political Reform Act's requirements and prohibitions. It will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 651 Pine Street, Room 107, Martinez. Reservations are required. Contact the FPPC at 1-866-ASK-FPPC.

For more information about the upcoming 2010 elections, go to www.cocovote.us or call the Elections Division at (925) 335-7800 or (877) 335-7802.



Video Conference Program

In the midst of an austere fiscal climate, training is often one of the first casualties of organizational change and rightsizing. It takes foresight and perseverance to withhold the fiscal hatchet, and a champion or champions to continue the march toward continued employee and management development. As Ron Harvey of Risk Management puts it, "The cost of training is far less than the cost of litigation."

January will mark the rollout month for the County's Video Conference program, which will focus on management and executive development. The installation of videoconference equipment at the Brentwood EHSD, Ellenwood Bldg 500 EHSD, Hercules EHSD, and Richmond Hall Avenue sites, provides the platform for Countywide interactive broadcast capabilities. The initial programs will focus on the wants and needs of EHSD and will blossom out to the remainder of County Departments shortly thereafter. The Risk Management Division has spearheaded the project and provides the capability to present, interact, record, and rebroadcast any training conducted in suite 125 of the Summit Centre. Access to the Risk Management training room and the other sites around the County has the potential to increase supervisor/manager options in training, provide a venue for more efficient and effective use of their time, resources, and continuity in professional development.

Shortly thereafter, the on-line training will shift to the Target Safety site for Contra Costa County. This site will host the employee development programs that are to be completed using the web-based training venue. Employees will be able to sign-on to the site using their employee number and assigned default password. The programs to be completed will be assigned to them via their supervisor/manager, along with a date for completion.

To view the Target Safety site for Contra Costa County, go to the following web address:
http://app.targetedsafety.com/template_self_reg/index.cfm?c=ccc

GSD Electronic Systems

On September 15, 2009, the General Services Department, Electronic Systems Specialist Shop, entered into a three-year contract with East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) to design, install, service, and maintain a variety of electronic systems including, but not limited to, burglar/security alarm systems, access control/card entry systems, P.A./intercom systems, video/CCTV/cable TV systems, duress/panic systems, fire alarm systems, doorbells/entry alerts, master clock systems, temperature/environmental/utility alarms, and other related systems.

Electronic Systems Specialist staff will be working at various EBRPD facilities. Types of sites range from the Administration building in Oakland to the Merry Go Round at Tilden Park.

Other sites include: Temescal, Sunol Wilderness, Shadow Cliffs, San Pablo Reservoir Police substation, Hayward Airport Eagle Hanger,

Police and Fire services headquarters, Lake Chabot, Del Valle, Cull Canyon,

Crown Beach, Briones, Ardenwood, Antioch Pier, and many more.

As of October 21, 2009, we had completed four requests for Electronic systems and have four more pending. For more information, contact Rob Wise, Lead E.S.S., General Services Department at 925-313-7052.

'I Forgot My Reusable Shopping Bags Again!'



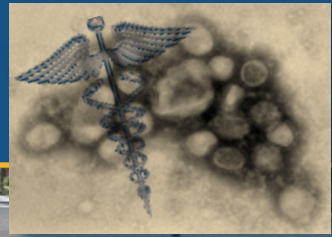
How many times has this happened to you? Don't worry; help is just an email away! The Conservation and Development Department has a limited supply of 'window clings' (e.g. like the oil change reminder clings) for your car window, to help you remember. To request a free window cling, County employees should submit an email with their name and County work location to: cccrecycle@yahoo.com. Be sure to state your request for a 'Got Your Bags?' window cling in your email. One will be sent to you through interoffice mail while supplies last.

Remember: Reusable bags can be used for holiday shopping as well as for grocery shopping and most all other types of shopping.

The 'Got Your Bags?' Campaign is going on now, sponsored by Keep California Beautiful.

To learn more visit <http://keepcaliforniabeautiful.com/>.

Health Department Holds H1N1 Community Clinics

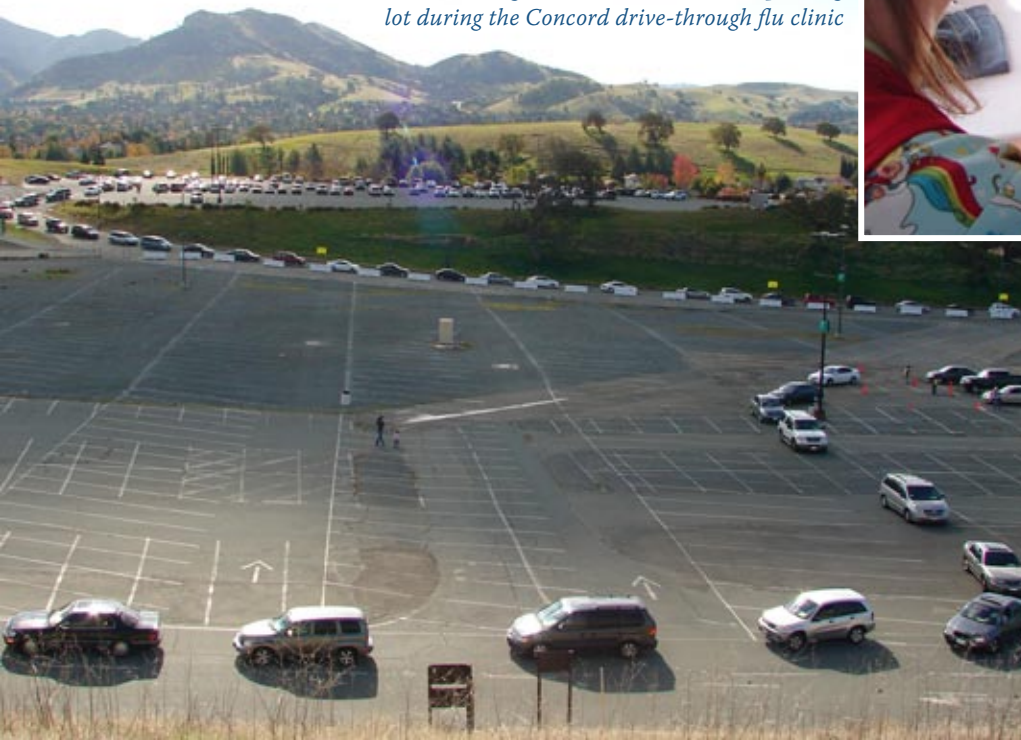


Thousands of people received H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine at the Richmond community flu clinic in November

Since early October, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) has been conducting a broad vaccination effort to prevent the spread of the H1N1 (swine) flu virus. H1N1 has made many people sick in Contra Costa, causing hundreds of hospitalizations and more than a dozen deaths. The vaccination effort is the largest the county has ever undertaken for a flu season. In the last three months of 2009, the county health department held 54 school clinics, four free community mass vaccination clinics and 44 smaller clinics which provided more than 40,000 vaccinations. Vaccine is also being shipped by the state directly to Kaiser, hospitals, community clinics, pediatricians, ob/gyns, and family practice doctors and pharmacies. Contra Costa residents who have yet to receive the vaccine should contact their health care provider first to find out if and when it will be offered or check CCHS' website for information on where to get vaccinated.



Vehicles snaked through the Concord Pavilion's parking lot during the Concord drive-through flu clinic



Above: A child receives flu vaccine at the Richmond community flu clinic

Everyone can help prevent the spread of H1N1 by staying home if sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often. For the latest information about H1N1 flu in Contra Costa, visit www.cchealth.org or call 1-888-959-9911.

Sheriff's Detention Facilities Engraving, Sign Shop and Frame Shop



Hidden within the Office of the Sheriff are two programs designed to assist the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF). The IWF provides for the needs of incarcerated individuals within Contra Costa County facilities with the intent to reduce the impact of crime on the community.

These two programs are designated as Inmate Industries Vocational Training Programs. They are the Engraving & Sign Shop located at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond and the Frame Shop located at the Marsh Creek Detention Facility near Clayton.

The sole purpose of the Inmate Industries Program, which began in 1999 and is a non-profit organization, is to provide county inmates with specialized training in a variety of skills and values required to find and maintain jobs. The

highly-skilled instructors who run the two facilities hope that by acquiring workable skills, learning good work ethics and building self-esteem and confidence, the inmates who participate in these programs will be able to not only find gainful employment upon their release, but also become socially responsible citizens, making positive contributions to their families and the community. To date, 15 former inmates have found jobs based upon the skills they received in this program.

Engraving & Sign Shop

Products designed at the Engraving & Sign Shop include large-format printing, engraving, sign fabrication, banner production, plaques and awards, vehicle graphics, coffee mugs, acrylic and wood products, personalized items, and much more. The Sign Shop has a large selection of indoor and outdoor signs, including A.D.A. compliant and Braille signs available. Whether you need one sign or several, the Sign Shop offers a variety of finishes, custom colors and architectural frames to give your office or building a professional look.

Frame Shop

The Frame Shop at Marsh Creek was added to the Inmate Industry Vocational Training Program in July 2006. They offer a variety of custom frames and memory boxes, including selected woods, matting and both non-glare and museum-quality glass. Customized framing will enhance photos or artwork with a huge selection of frames to choose from. No job is too challenging, and the quality workmanship can't be beat!

All products are available on a quick turnaround basis to county departments and employees, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Because this is a training program, prices are significantly reduced, up to 50%-60% below retail. Special orders are welcome. To view the online catalog, visit: cocosheriff.org. Go to: Community Information then Engraving/Sign Shop.

To place an order at the Engraving & Sign Shop, please call (510) 262-4268 or email: cocosigns@sbcglobal.net

To place an order at the Frame Shop, please call Rick at (925) 646-5700 ext. 320 or email: FrameShop@so.cccounty.us



Annual Report Highlights Year Free of Major Chemical Accidents and Releases

Contra Costa Health Services' Hazardous Materials Division (HazMat) continues to have tremendous success protecting workers and residents from accidents at refineries and chemical plants. In the past year, there was not a single major accident or release at any refinery or chemical plant in Contra Costa—a first since the County's Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) was passed 11 years ago. In addition, it was the second straight year in which there was not a major accident or release at a facility covered by the ISO. HazMat Director Randy Sawyer and Accidental Release Prevention Programs Engineer Supervisor Cho Nai Cheung presented the 2009 ISO report to the County Board of Supervisors in November. Randy said that by keeping with the ordinance and by strengthening its requirements, Contra Costa will continue to increase its chances of preventing accidents that affect public health and employee safety.



HazMat Director Randy Sawyer and Accidental Release Prevention Programs Engineer Supervisor Cho Nai Cheung present the 2009 ISO report to the county Board of Supervisors in November.

To read the entire ISO report, visit www.cchealth.org or contact HazMat at 925-646-2286.

Doctors' Protest Against Coca-Cola Partnership Sparks National Discussion

More than 20 doctors joined Contra Costa Health Services Director Dr. William Walker in October at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez to protest the partnership between the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Coca-Cola Company. Sugar-sweetened beverages are a major contributor to the obesity epidemic. According to a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 62% of children aged 12 to 17 drink one or more sugar-sweetened beverage per day—the same as consuming an amazing 39 pounds of sugar each year. Dr. Walker, a 25-year member of the AAFP, resigned from the organization, saying he could not support an organization that claims to promote public health while joining forces with a company that promotes products that put our children at risk for obesity, heart disease and early death. Since then, the protest has sparked a national discussion and led other doctors and organizations to speak out about the unhealthy partnership. For more information, visit: http://cchealth.org/groups/health_services/aafp_protest.php



CCHS doctors give the AAFP partnership with Coca-Cola the thumbs down.



A Public/Private Partnership

Two monuments to our earliest Contra Costa County pioneer are efficiently maintained by a unique public/private partnership. The County Public Works Department in conjunction with the Martinez 4-H Clubs and Brentwood Girl Scouts ensure the monuments commemorating the life and death of Dr. John Marsh are honored. It is a long standing civic effort focusing on two important historic landmarks and the reverence still held for our earliest pioneer.

California Landmark #722 is the only State historic landmark honoring a murder site. Dr. John Marsh was murdered on September 24, 1856 en route to San Francisco via Martinez from his home near present day Brentwood. The County's Public Works Maintenance Crew in Martinez ensures road hazard safety and clearance around the monument located at 4575 Pacheco Boulevard. Martinez 4-H Clubs ensure the stone monument and bronze plaque are clean and appealing.

A second monument commemorating John and Abby Marsh is located adjacent to Marsh's great stone house, Marsh Creek Road, Brentwood. Local Brentwood Girl Scouts cleaned and resurfaced the monument in 2007 as part of their "local lore" merit badge activities. They return frequently to ensure its beauty. The County road crews assist in this partnership by ensuring the area around the monuments in the road right-of-way is free of debris, glass, metal, and other hazards.

Recently, the State Route 4 Bypass Authority named the new Highway 4 Bypass the "John Marsh Heritage Highway." The Public Works Department placed signs located at the north and south ends of the Bypass. For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit: www.cccpublicworks.org. Information about the importance of John Marsh in United States history and efforts to restore the beautiful 1856 Stone House are available at: www.JohnMarshHouse.com



Congratulations to the Web Redesign Core Team for earning a 2009 Meritorious National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Award of Excellence for the County web site. Pictured from left to right are: Janyce Carr-Wright; Joanna Tam; David Twa, County Administrator; Eileen Koo; Patricia Burke; Pattie McNamee; Susan Bonilla, Chair Board of Supervisors and Mike Casten.

2009 Combined Charities Campaign

The 2009 Contra Costa County Combined Charities Campaign was held October 1 through 30. The participating charity federations associated with the campaign included Community Health Charities of California (the lead organization), Bay Area Black United Fund, Local Independent Charities, Earth Share of California, and United Way of the Bay Area. Substantial donations were also accepted for several non-profit agencies managed by County departments and agencies that support activities and services for County residents. Silvano Marchesi, County Counsel, was the chair and Rhodora Lopez assisted in the campaign. Volunteer coordinators from each department raised over \$250,000, with over 1,000 employees participating. Employee & Human Services was the top donor department with \$58,419 in pledges, while Child Support Services held the top spot in individual employee donations with \$476 per person. The generosity of Contra Costa County's employees will directly assist those in greatest need in our community during these challenging economic times.

CENSUS 2010: Coming soon in your Mailbox!



CENSUS FACTS & STATISTICS

- \$12,000 – the approximate amount of funding lost over the next 10 years for each person not counted in Contra Costa
- \$400 billion - The amount of money census allocates to our communities every year; it is more than the gross domestic product of Switzerland (\$303.2 billion) and the United Arab Emirates (\$164.4 billion)
- 3,929,000 - The entire population of the United States in 1790 – the year of the first census – about the same as Los Angeles' population today
- 10.9 million - The number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home; 7.9 million of these children speak Spanish at home (Source: 2007 American Community Survey)
- 100 billion - The number of text messages sent on cell phones in December 2008, up from 48 billion in December 2007 (Source: US Census Bureau Statistical Abstract of the US: 2010)
- More than 308 million – the estimated population of the US as we rang in the New Year (Source: US Census Population projections)

The County is gearing up for the upcoming 2010 US Census this Spring. The census is conducted every 10 years, with the goal of counting every person living in the United States, irrespective of age, race or citizenship status. In between those 10 years, the Census Bureau conducts a variety of surveys to update information about our nation's social and economic conditions.

Although we are still a few months away, significant work is now being done in our communities to promote the importance of the census and increase the mail-in response rate of our county residents. Special efforts are being made to reach the hard-to-count population including minorities, non-English speaking households, low income households and the transient population. It is crucial to get an accurate count because data collected will have a significant impact on the quality of life in our communities. Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, allocate more than \$400 billion in federal grants to state and local governments, and help guide decisions at every level of government that will impact our communities – for example, where to build more schools, libraries, roads, hospital, senior services, etc. The Census questionnaire is quick and easy to complete – 10 questions, 10 minutes. Responses are held in strict confidence and by law cannot be shared with anyone, including government, law enforcement agencies, not even the President of the United States! County staff members have been working for the last few months with community and faith-based organizations, as well as city and business leaders, to deliver the census message and dispel any misinformation.

As county employees, we urge you to help raise awareness about the value of the census. Let your family, friends and neighbors know its significance. The US Census Bureau has designated April 1, 2010 as Census Day and will be mailing census questionnaire forms to households sometime in mid- March. However, you do not have to wait for April 1 to complete and return your form. Please fill out and mail back your census questionnaire promptly. Households who do not respond to the questionnaire by mid-April will be visited by census workers at home to obtain their responses. Save our census workers the trouble – mail in your responses by April 1. Please do your part to help our county and our communities– be counted and make a difference! For more information, please visit www.cococensus.org.

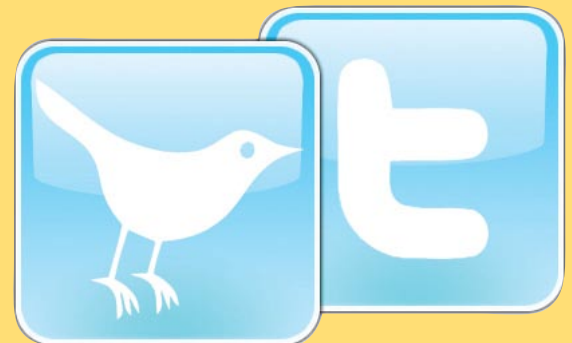
Many thanks to the following departments for providing staff support to the countywide census efforts: Conservation and Development, County Administrator's Office, CCTV, Health Services, and Employment and Human Services.

Follow the County on Twitter

Hey there! CCCounty is using Twitter.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What's happening? Join today to start receiving CCCounty's tweets.

Look for the Twitter link on the bottom left side of the county's main web page at www.contracosta.ca.gov





The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Funding at Work in Contra Costa County

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA),

which was signed by President

Obama on February 17, 2009, has provided local construction contractors and their employees, nonprofits, and renters facing eviction a reason to smile this holiday season. The County's Conservation and Development Department received ARRA funding through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to invest in public facility and infrastructure projects, and to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who are facing becoming homeless and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless.

The County was provided an additional \$900,000 in CDBG-R (Recovery) funding to help finance public facility and infrastructure projects throughout the County. Fourteen projects received funding including two local nonprofits. **Opportunity Junction** is an Antioch based nonprofit agency that fights poverty by helping low income adults gain the necessary job skills and confidence to support themselves and their families. Their building



Before Renovation

Below: After Renovation



renovation project was completed in September 2009, and touched every aspect of the interior of Opportunity Junction's office/educational space including creating eight private office rooms, two new computer labs, one general classroom, and a staff conference room. This renovation project increases the capacity of Opportunity Junction to train and place more low-income County residents in jobs that will lead to economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the renovation project created a total of 14 construction-related jobs.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano received CDBG-R funds to convert a second floor storage space at their Concord facility into offices for their employees. Also completed in September 2009, this project will allow the Food Bank to

conduct its day-to-day activities in a more efficient and organized manner, and will help streamline

the processes required to serve the ever increasing number of County residents looking to

the Food Bank to provide much needed food during this economic crisis. This renovation project created a total of 15 construction jobs.



Above: Before the Renovation,

Left: After



The County also received \$1.4 million in funds through the **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)** to provide financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services to individuals and families facing eviction or to homeless families so they can move into permanent housing. Funds are available to assist with rental payments, security deposits and utility bills and to provide case management services related to housing search and retention. The program targets participants who are able to achieve stable housing, subsidized or unsubsidized, outside of HPRP and within a fairly short time period. The County and its partners expect to provide assistance to approximately 400 households.

For more information about the HPRP program in Central, East or South County, please contact:

Shelter, Inc. – (925) 957-7575

Catholic Charities – (925) 825-3099 ext. 302

For assistance in West County please contact:

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program – (510) 233-2141 ext. 309

Rubicon Programs – (510) 235-1516

EHSD Begins SET Program

On October 13, 2009, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) to begin the Subsidized Employment & Training program (SET). SET is made possible by the recently enacted American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which will provide over 7 million dollars locally to put CalWorks recipients to work in Contra Costa non-profits, public agencies, and businesses. The purpose of SET is to boost the local economy, provide a community service, and improve the employability of unemployed county CalWorks recipients.

Locally, SET is administered by EHSD's Workforce Services Bureau in partnership with the Housing Authority of Contra Costa. The Workforce Services Bureau refers CalWorks recipients to local non-profits, public agencies, and businesses that have agreed to provide entry-level training and work experience to county residents. Once selected and working in the SET program, the Housing Authority handles all the payroll and check issuing procedures as the "employer of record" for SET participants.

SET participants earn \$8.50 per hour in their training jobs and are also involved in work-related training while in their assignment. Typically, assignments run about 6 months and average 32 hours per week.

Workforce Services Director Wendy Therrian stated, "We're very excited about the opportunity to help people become competitive in the labor market." Ms. Therrian reported, "We're emphasizing work experience, specific job skills, and teaching good work habits." Therrian continued, "Within weeks of the Board's action to launch SET we had over 100 local employers willing to pitch in and train local residents. Although the local job market is very tough, the employers' willingness is encouraging." Ms. Therrian added the caveat that "SET cannot be used by any employer to supplant the work of current employees or replace any who have been laid off."

Christopher Parker (*pictured right*) signed on with SET to perform office assistant duties for EHSD. He is looking forward to updating his resume with this current experience which includes answering the phone, taking messages, preparing materials for packets, and scanning materials.



SET is a temporary jobs program, currently set to expire at the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2010. If you know of an employer that would like to help put local residents back to work – or a county department that would like to participate - call on one of these Workforce Services Bureau representatives: Kimberly Baker 313-1781 (West County), Emily Martinez 521-5052 (Central County) or Michelle Graham (East County) 313-1702.



Strategies for Re-Employment

The Workforce Development Board and Contra Costa Small Business Center are now enjoying their new offices in modern and centralized space at 300 Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill. Relocation of their 25 staff occurred in early October, amid the flurry of activity generated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Designing strategies for re-employment of county residents in this economic downturn has clearly taken precedence over unpacking boxes. Even amid the crates and address changes, staff has managed to operate full throttle, pursuing grant funding and partnerships with colleges, business, and economic development in an effort to effectively utilize ARRA funding to support those seeking employment and training services.

Transition will be complete when Stephen Baiter joins the staff as the incoming Executive Director. Stephen brings extensive knowledge of workforce development programs from his tenure as Director of the One Stop Consortium. He has been responsible for operations in the four EASTBAY Works One-Stop Career Centers that serve residents throughout the County. Stephen has been actively engaged in federal training programs and is well-suited for this fast paced work. He is stepping in as the County faces some the greatest challenges we have seen in many years with unemployment rates hovering above 11%.

Breastfeeding and Returning to Work: You Can Do It!

Is it Possible Return to Work & Continue Breastfeeding?

The answer is YES! California law requires all employers to provide a private space that is not a toilet stall and adequate break time (paid and/or unpaid) for expressing milk. Breastmilk provides your baby with unique nutrition to promote a strong immune system and the best brain and body growth. It benefits moms too, by reducing the risk of diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

Employers who support breastfeeding can benefit through reduced health care costs, increased job productivity, improved employee loyalty and retention, and decreased absenteeism. Mothers of infants who are breastfed are less likely to need days off for a sick baby.

Breastfed babies are much less likely to need medication or hospitalization.

Employees who get support to provide the best nutrition for their babies are less likely to quit or take a different job.



Anisha at work with her electric breast pump

Tips for Breastfeeding Moms Returning to Work.

- Take as much maternity leave as you can and breastfeed often in the first weeks.
- Ask your supervisor about a place to pump breast milk before you return to work. You will only need 20 to 40 minutes every 2 to 3 hours. Possible spaces could be someone's office, a storeroom, a women's lounge. You may need to have a locking door or a "do not enter" sign. A portable partition can be used in some cases. Think about where you will plug in your pump and wash your equipment.
- Begin to store breast milk one or two weeks before you return to work.
- Start back to work part-time or start in the middle of the week to ease into the transition.
- Call for help if you need it. Many working moms experience fatigue and anxiety. This can affect your milk supply temporarily.

Managing breastfeeding and work takes practice. Be patient and give yourself time to figure out what works best for you.



651 Pine Street lactation area

County Designated Lactation Rooms

300-400-500 Ellenwood Way, Pleasant Hill

651 Pine Street, Martinez

597 Center Avenue, Martinez

4545-4549 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch

Breastfeeding Information

Contra Costa Breastfeeding Advice Line 1-866-878-7767

La Leche League

1-877-452-5324

www.lalecheleague.org

www.kellymom.org

Nancy Busby Hill, MS, RD, IBCLC, is a nutrition and lactation consultant for Contra Costa Health Services, Family, Maternal & Child Health Programs

For more information call (925) 313-6260 or email: nhill@hsd.cccounty.us



April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Are You and Your Family Prepared?

Our county has at least five active fault systems. The Hayward Fault, which passes through western Contra Costa County, causes the greatest concern. Scientists have estimated there is a 90% chance that a major earthquake will occur along the Hayward Fault within the next 30 years.

The damage caused by a major earthquake will severely restrict communications, transportation and utilities and will isolate many areas of the county. Emergency service response personnel will likely be overwhelmed by calls for assistance and unable to respond to many requests during the first three days of the disaster. Do not call 9-1-1 unless you have a real emergency. The ability of individuals, families and neighbors to help themselves and each other cope during this time will be crucial to their recovery.

Preparedness activities that are undertaken NOW will provide individuals and families with a greater sense of security and self-sufficiency when earthquakes or other disasters happen.

For more information provided in the county's Family Preparedness Resource Guide, please call the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, Emergency Services Division, at (925) 228-5000 or link to the brochure at: <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=383>



Do You Know Your Role in the Event of an Emergency?



We never know when a major disaster will strike Contra Costa County.



Did you know that California laws states all county employees – *from every department* – could be required to serve as Disaster Service Workers in the event of an emergency? To find out more about what your role would be in the event of an emergency, consult the County's Employee Handbook on the Intranet at http://intranet.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/hr/employee_handbook.htm page 33; view the 12-minute video on CCTV at 7:30 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (CCTV is on Comcast Channel 27 and on Astound Channel 32); or view the video at http://www.cchealth.org/topics/emergencies/disaster_service_worker.php

California's Hands Free Law went into effect July 1, 2008!

California Hands-Free Cell Phone Law:

All CA drivers are prohibited from using a hand-held wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle.
[THIS INCLUDES ALL COUNTY VEHICLES]

- ◆ *Motorists 18 and over may use a hands-free device.*
- ◆ *Drivers 18 and under can NOT use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.*
- Drivers can use a wireless telephone device to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency services agency.
- Push-to-talk features can only be used by drivers operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck.

Risks of Cell Phone Use While Driving

- Drivers must take their eyes off the road while driving
- Drivers take their attention off the road when they are in conversation on cell phones. Conversations affect a drivers' ability to concentrate on driving
- Cell phone use creates a risk for serious injury or death, like many other driving distractions

Your options

- Use a hands-free cell phone device for emergency use
- If your phone rings while driving, let voicemail answer. Call back from a safe location.
- Stop at a safe location to make a call
- Focus on driving your vehicle

NOTE: If an employee is involved in a motor vehicle accident while making a work-related cell phone call, both the employee and employer can be liable (Business and Legal Reports, 2007).

Sources: National Safety Council at www.nsc.org; CA Highway Patrol at www.chp.ca.gov; National Highway Traffic Safety Association at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.



Winter Fire Safety

Every winter, preventable fires injure citizens of Contra Costa County and result in avertable financial damages. By following these winter safety tips you can help keep your family and home fire safe.



Candle With Care -- Do not leave burning candles unattended, or place them near flammable materials. Make sure they are in a secure place where children and pets won't knock them over. Put candles in a non-tip candleholder. Make sure all candles are extinguished before you leave, and before going to bed.

Surging Ahead -- Surge protectors are a safe bet to prevent electrical overloading. And never put extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters. Be sure extension cords aren't pinched behind or under furniture,

Watch What You Heat -- Did you know cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in our county? Keep pot handles and electrical appliance cords

out of the reach of children. Avoid wearing baggy clothing, and always use potholders. Put a lid on a pan to extinguish a food or grease fire - never use water. In the event of an oven fire, turn off the heat and close the oven door.

Keep Your Distance -- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heat sources, like an electric heater. Never use a gas or kerosene heater inside your home or in a closed space.

Flue Open, Screen Up -- If you plan to use your fireplace this winter, have your chimney inspected. Be sure to open the flue for adequate ventilation when using the fireplace. Always use a fire screen, and burn only material appropriate for fireplaces. Remove ashes from the fireplace in a metal container and store them outside your home.

Finally, be sure every level of your house has a working smoke alarm!

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District is a full-service fire agency that provides fire and emergency medical services to 600,000 people across a 304 square-mile area, including nine cities and many unincorporated areas. Visit our web site at www.cccfpd.org. For public education programs call 925-941-3327.

Congratulations

on a Job Well Done!



The Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) Community Education and Information Unit (CEI) has been awarded the National Public Health Information Coalition's (NPHIC) 2009 gold medal for Excellence in Public Health Communication for "Using New Media for H1N1 (flu) Communications." CEI uses online communications and social-networking tools, such as podcasts, Facebook and Twitter, to disseminate important health information to the public, media, partners and staff. NPHIC is an independent organization of public health communication professionals that works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies to promote health.

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) won the 2009 California Child Support Directors Association Program Awareness Award for instituting an effective, local community awareness campaign about important child support services. DCSS was recognized for three innovative campaigns. In the fall of 2008, DCSS piloted a special mail campaign for the State targeting county residents who have a court order for child support and might have need of DCSS' services. Because orders are already in place and employers identified, a number of cases have been opened quickly. In June 2009, DCSS initiated a three-month Bay Area Rapid Transit ad campaign raising awareness of child support services and an on-line application to easily and quickly open a child support case. And in July 2009, DCSS launched a Facebook page targeting technically savvy, younger people in a manner they understand. The growing fan base among young people attests to its success.

Contra Costa Television (CCTV) was recognized by the Board of Supervisors at the December 15th meeting for celebrating 15 years of continuous broadcasting from 1994-2009. CCTV airs approximately 8,736 hours of programming per year, has won over 94 awards for its programs and reaches over 350,000 homes in Contra Costa County and other parts of the Bay Area. CCTV can be seen on Comcast cable channel 27, Astound Broadband cable channel 32 and AT&T U-Verse channel 99.

As of November 2009 Fire Prevention Specialists with the **Contra Costa County Fire Protection District** had installed new smoke alarms and checked batteries for more than 400 senior homeowners.

Deputy Probation Officer Petrenya Boykins has been selected as the Bay Area Regional and State Employee of the Year by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) for the outstanding contribution she has made in her work with children and families in the criminal justice system. Petrenya was recognized along with four others who were selected from their regions of the State at the CPOC conference in December 2009. Petrenya is a 23 year veteran of the CCC Probation Department and is currently assigned as the Training & Volunteer Coordinator for the entire department. In addition to her responsibility for coordinating all staff training, she recruits, designs and plans assignments for Probation volunteers, working with deputies and matching mentors to our minors on probationers. Petrenya has served as Public Relations Coordinator for our Juvenile Hall Auxiliary for 12 years and President of the Auxiliary for two years.

The Public Works Department received the Circle of Service Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for the department going above and beyond in the fight to save the Highway User Tax Account funds in the FY 2009-10 State Budget.



On October 22, 2009, **Deputy Probation Officer Wil Broom and Probation Counselor Solomon Windham** were honored with a "Men of Merit" award at the fourth annual "Men of Merit" Celebration, which honors men who take a stand to promote a positive image in boys and young men's lives by demonstrating that violence does not equal strength, and by working to mentor boys into the next generation of compassionate men. The "Men of Merit" Celebration is a component of the DELTA Project, which was developed in Contra Costa County to prevent the incidence of first-time intimate partner domestic violence. Officer Broom has been a Contra Costa County Deputy Probation Officer for over 11 years. He is assigned to the Department's Domestic Violence unit. PC Windham has been with the Probation Department for 12 years working at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, Juvenile Hall, and is currently working in the Youthful Offender Treatment Program.

County Supervisor Federal D. Glover was selected to serve on the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC's) Executive Committee representing urban counties.

Congratulations

on a Job Well Done!

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Barger, the 2009 California EMS Medical Director of the Year. Dr. Barger, Medical Director of Contra Costa Health Services' Emergency Medical Services Division, was selected for the statewide honor because of his excellence, motivation and service to EMS. Dr. Barger has served as EMS Medical Director since 1996. He has also served as Chief of the CCHS Emergency Department and Assistant EMS Medical Director.

Congratulations to Pattie McNamee for receiving the Engineer of the Year Award at the annual meeting of the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC). This award is given to an active member of CEAC that has made outstanding contributions to the County engineering profession and to the CEAC organization. This is quite an honor as the nomination came from Pattie's peers statewide. Pattie has been active in CEAC for several years and has been a leader in the efforts to reach out to members to broaden the involvement in the organization that is more diverse and representative of our employees and the public we serve.

The Contra Costa County Library is the recent recipient of two honors for the Library-a-Go-Go service, a book dispensing machine installed at three locations throughout the County. The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) have recognized the Library for its efforts in finding a new and effective way of providing service to its community.

Contra Costa County Library has been awarded a \$60,000 Bay Area Library and Information Systems (BALIS) Innovation grant to create a mobile platform that will push new and existing library content and services -- literally -- into the hands of cell phone users. The "Snap & Go" project will allow Contra Costa County residents with mobile phones and a library card to access library materials, enhanced content, and manage their accounts without having to visit a library building or gain access to a computer.

The County Probation Department's Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility received an Honorable Mention in the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2009 Challenge Awards for their successful cognitive treatment model. The programmatic changes have resulted in a 43% drop in special incident reports, a 42% decrease in disciplinary removals and an 18% drop in parole violations.

Contra Costa Television (CCTV) won a first place Western Access Video Excellence (W.A.V.E.) Award sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media Western States for the Public Service Announcement *Leslie's Story*. Two other programs, *DUI Trial at Alhambra High School* and *Elections Preview-District 5* were selected as W.A.V.E. Award finalists.

Contra Costa Health Services was awarded an unprecedented \$12 million to relocate and rebuild Richmond Health Center, a plan that has been years in the making. The funds were awarded under the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that George Miller and Congressional Democrats fought for this spring in response to the severe economic recession. Funds were awarded through a competitive grant process for a one-time facility improvement opportunity to address significant and pressing capital improvement needs in health centers, including construction and renovation. "This is a huge shot in the arm for our communities as they work to provide much needed health care services," said Miller. "Contra Costa's plan to move the Richmond Health Services closer to Doctors' Hospital is a win for our entire community. Patients will have access to comprehensive services at the hospital and health center, medical staff will be able to share resources and the community will have better access to the facility. Community health centers, like this one, are key to developing a national plan for comprehensive health care."

